

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and following remarks. Claims 1-6 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection and will file a continuation patent application on these claims. Claim 18 has been amended to correct indefiniteness issues. No new matter has been added. Claims 7-29 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 5 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, and respectfully request reconsideration in view of the following comments.

Claim 5 has been canceled, rendering the rejection to this claim moot. Claim 18 has been amended to correct antecedent basis issues, as suggested by the Examiner.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3, 5, and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Rutter. The rejection is rendered moot, as claims 1-3, 5 and 6 have been canceled in order to advance this application to allowance. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rutter in view of Christinc et al. The rejection is rendered moot, as claim 4 has been canceled in order to advance this application to allowance. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

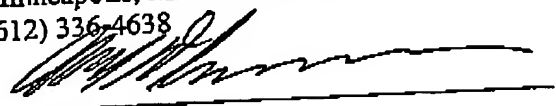
In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants believes that the claims are in a condition for allowance. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested. If any further questions arise, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the number listed below.



Date: July 14, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 336-4638



Michael D. Schumann
Reg. No. 30,422